

# AGNEWS



**Agriculture & Food Operations**  
Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

November 2015

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## Minister's Message

It's an exciting time for the agriculture industry! During my time as Minister thus far, I have witnessed a growth of energy and enthusiasm in our sector that increases each season.

The Department of Agriculture continues to partner with industry to help it reach its full potential because we know our work needs to be industry-driven to be successful. It's about creating new connections and maximizing on our unique climate, soil and growing conditions found here in Nova Scotia.

I want to share with you the details of some of the work we have been doing in the industry. For instance, our wine and grape industry and our blueberry sector have experienced exciting growth in the last 12 months. With a provincial wild blueberry production of more than forty million pounds, and a farmgate value in 2014 of \$35.5 million dollars, it is no surprise our wild blueberries are the number one fruit crop in acreage export sales and value. To keep these numbers growing, in July the Lowbush Blueberry Development Program was introduced through the Growing Forward 2 initiative to increase blueberry production in Nova Scotia.

Growing Forward 2 is an important funding partnership between the provincial and federal government that supports increased productivity, innovation and market development for our agricultural sector. With a little more than one-million dollars committed over three years, the investment will increase field productivity; bring more land into production; support small business and create jobs; and grow and sustain a healthy rural Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotia's wine industry is a small but growing sector that contributed \$13.8 million to the provincial economy in 2014. Changes have recently been made to the Nova Scotia Wine Standards Regulations which remove the requirement for non-grape wine crop lands to be located within 500 m of the winery's production facility. This will allow the winery owner flexibility to locate the production facility in a more suitable location.

Changes were also made to align the regulations with current practices that allow non-grape wineries to be classified as small farm wineries (between 2 and 10 acres) or farm wineries (more than 10 acres).

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## Nova Scotia's Farm and Food Events Calendar

<http://nsfarmandfoodevents.com/>



I established the Nova Scotia Wine Development Board in 2014 and since then it has met several times. It is the first and only board of its kind in the country with a purpose to capitalize on one of Nova Scotia's fastest growing industries by highlighting opportunities, identifying barriers and providing advice on government legislation, regulation and policy development. I am impressed with the drive and dedication of some very talented Nova Scotia business people that are on this committee. There is a bright future for Nova Scotia's wine industry and I look forward to seeing it grow and prosper.

We continue to encourage Nova Scotians to support our local farmers and producers by buying local and in that regard Select Nova Scotia hosted several initiatives over the summer and fall months. For example, three kitchen pop-ups were held across the province featuring local foods prepared by the Kilted Chef, Alain Bossé and for the fifth year, the Devour! Film and Food Festival in Wolfville featured several activities centred on local-sourced food and food culture.

In September, National Organic Week was proclaimed in the Nova Scotia House of Assembly and activities were held locally that gave Nova Scotians opportunities to learn about the economic and health benefits of local organic products. In October, the Nova Scotia Organic Grade Regulations were put in place at the request of the industry in order to establish consistency and criteria for products to be labelled and sold as "organic" within the Province.

The next generation of farmers and producers remains very important to us. We know how vital agriculture is to the future of our province, and we want to make sure that we create an environment where anyone who is serious about commercial farming has the support they need to succeed. The FarmNEXT program was reintroduced in the summer with the expanded eligibility to allow more than one child in a family the opportunity to apply for funding through the program if they operate their own farm entity as a separate and unique business. The program has \$574,000 available in 2015-16. FarmNEXT clients also receive coaching in business planning and ongoing farm financial management advice from planning and development officers at the department.

You will find details on all of these programs and more at the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture website at

<http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/financial-funding/>

The Department of Agriculture also supports our younger farmers through provincial 4-H programs and other youth oriented initiatives because we recognize the importance of developing our province's youth to be leaders in their community and in our agriculture industry. The department has demonstrated its commitment to supporting 4-H with a four year, long term funding agreement of \$390,000 to help with their operations. The agreement was worked out between the department and the Nova Scotia 4-H Council and is being successfully implemented.

It is clear that together we all have a lot to contribute to the future of our province and our vital rural communities. Fortunately, our complex and diverse industry is led by producers who embrace innovation and I look forward to continuing to work with farmers and others in the agriculture industry to realize the growth potential we all know is there.

As we move into the holiday season, I would like to extend season's greetings to everyone and wishes for a peaceful and prosperous new year.

Honourable Keith Colwell, Minister of Agriculture



## Reaching Consumers with Select Nova Scotia

Select Nova Scotia is the provincial “buy local” promotional program, administered by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Communications Nova Scotia. The intention of Select Nova Scotia is to add value for local agriculture and food producers, manufacturers and retailers by helping to create conditions that will fuel their success and boost economic growth and prosperity in our province.

The Select Nova Scotia web site [www.selectnovascotia.ca](http://www.selectnovascotia.ca) contains a directory of local (Nova Scotia) food and beverage producers and processors. We encourage all Nova Scotia food and beverage providers to register on the site and to create a listing detailing the products you have and where they are available to purchase.

To register, send us an email at [select@novascotia.ca](mailto:select@novascotia.ca) to get a registration code. Once you have the code, go to [www.selectnovascotia.ca/user/register](http://www.selectnovascotia.ca/user/register) and follow the steps to set up your profile.

In addition to the web site, Select Nova Scotia has a social media campaign on Facebook [www.facebook.com/selectns](http://www.facebook.com/selectns) and Twitter @SelectNS.

Check it out and see what is happening for our fall and winter campaign, encouraging consumers to “Commit to Local”!

For more information, contact:  
Claire Hanlon Smith  
Coordinator, Select Nova Scotia  
Tel: 902-893-4491  
Email:  
[Claire.HanlonSmith@novascotia.ca](mailto:Claire.HanlonSmith@novascotia.ca)

## Staff Profile

**Claire Hanlon Smith, Select Nova Scotia Coordinator**



Claire grew up in Truro, Nova Scotia. During high school and university, she worked as a summer student with the Department of Agriculture and Marketing (as it was called at the time!) picking tomatoes and cucumbers and helping in the hydroponic greenhouse.

She completed a Bachelor of Business Administration (Marketing) from Mount Saint Vincent, and after graduation headed to Jonquière, Quebec for a six month French immersion program.

Claire joined the department in January 1989 as a marketing research assistant, and has had many jobs within the former Marketing Services Division, including market information and market development.

With the recent restructuring in the Department, she took on the role of business development officer with the Value Chain Development group, based in the Central Regional office.

Most recently, she has accepted a one-year term as coordinator of the provincial buy-local program, Select Nova Scotia. Claire is looking forward to helping promote locally grown, produced and processed food and beverage products to hungry and thirsty consumers in the province, and helping to convey the importance of buying local.

She and her husband Therin live in Truro with their two-teenaged sons (and three cats).

## Ag Weather Atlantic

AgWeather Atlantic is offering producers more localized weather and climate information, along with new and exciting tools to aid producers and crop advisors in improving on-farm business risk management. To find out more information about AgWeather Atlantic please visit our “NEW” posted webinars: <http://atl.agrometeo.org/index.php/weather/local> (click on the AgWeather Atlantic Webinar icon: located on the left-hand side of the home page).

Webinar 1 will provide producers and crop advisors with an overview of what AgWeather Atlantic is, what it can offer your farming operation, and it will help users navigate around the website.

Webinar 2 and 3 will provide specifics on the AgWeather Atlantic tools available (i.e., bioclimatic models to help manage pests, a hay drying index, an alfalfa fall harvest tool, corn heat units, etc.). Webinar 2 and 3 will explain how to use and interpret these tools, and will explain how they could potentially benefit your farming operation.

# Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission

## Why should I have AgriInsurance?

As a producer, you are constantly faced with factors that are beyond your control. Things like adverse weather, disease, wildlife, and insect infestations can have a serious impact on your production and your income. AgriInsurance, also referred to as Production Insurance or Crop Insurance, adds some predictability to your business. It protects you against the effects of yield reductions and crop losses caused by insured perils. Last year there were more than 26,000 acres, 15,000 dairy animals, and 23 million birds insured annually in Nova Scotia.

AgriInsurance helps you:

- Maintain your cash flow in poor crop years with claim payments that offset losses caused by crop damage or low yields.
- Manage your operation with a more predictable cash flow.
- Provide collateral required to secure loans.
- Stabilize your AgriStability program reference margin over time.
- Gain affordable peace-of-mind by paying a tax-deductible premium that is cost-shared with government.

## Crop Insurance Application Deadlines the 2016 Crop Year.

- Blueberry - November 30
- Tree Fruit - November 30
- Vegetable - March 14
- Spring Grain - March 14
- Potato - April 19
- Corn - April 30
- Maple - April 30
- Weather Plan - April 30
- Soybean (includes Canola and Sunflower) - May 19

All producers who hold an active contract of insurance will receive a Coverage Options letter(s) before the beginning of the crop year, for most of the above plans, except for *Weather Derivative* which must be applied for annually. This gives you an opportunity to choose your price and coverage level options for the upcoming growing season.

## Advanced Payments Program

Reminder: If you are planning to apply for an advance through the Advance Payments Program (APP), keep the above application deadlines in mind. In many cases, the APP requires participation in Crop Insurance (or AgriStability) as a security for the advance. Late applications for Crop Insurance cannot be accepted after the above dates.

## Dairy Producers

The Commission is able to write new coverage for dairy livestock at any time during the year. If you are interested in insuring your animals against

disease, as well as loss of income from milk as a result of disease or fire, and building collapse due to ice and snow it is not too late to apply for *Dairy Insurance* (includes all reportable diseases, as well as shipping fever and IBR, but does not include BSE and Foot and Mouth). To find out more give the Commission office a call.

## New Grape Plan

Grape growers in Nova Scotia now have a new *Grape Crop Insurance Plan* available to help manage the risk of production failure on their farms. Producers had up until November 14, 2015 to sign up for the 2016 crop year. Any growers who want information on this plan can contact our office for an information package.

## Wildlife Compensation

The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission administers a *Wildlife Compensation Program* for Nova Scotia farmers who experience losses to animals or crops as a result of uncontrollable wildlife. This program applies to specific livestock as a result of predation by specified wildlife. Similarly, specified crops are eligible for this compensation program. For complete details, including prices paid for losses and crop and livestock covered, visit our website at

<http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/financial-funding/crop-livestock-insurance/>

The Department of Natural Resources has valuable information on best practices to reduce damage from wildlife. This information can be found at:

<http://novascotia.ca/natr/wildlife/living-with-wildlife/>

## Maple Producers

The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission offers crop insurance for maple syrup production.

This plan is available to all commercial maple producers to help them manage the risk of reduced yields due to natural perils. Any producers not currently signed up in the program can apply now for coverage for the 2016-17 crop year (the Feb-Mar 2017 harvest season). The deadline for application is April 30, 2016.

Since that is a busy time in the maple woods, we encourage you to apply now to avoid missing the deadline. Last year the Commission paid indemnity claims totaling almost \$70,000 to all but one of our insured maple clients, due to adverse weather.

## Forage Producers

The Commission offers two plans for forage producers to help manage the risk in the crop from natural perils. These plans are a Forage Establishment Plan and a Weather Derivative Plan for Forage.

### Forage Establishment Plan

The *Forage Establishment Plan* protects against establishment failure in the first year of growth for grasses, alfalfa and other legumes.

This plan covers losses from such things as winter injury, drought, insects, diseases, floods, excess moisture, frost and wind. The plan covers your new forage crop from the time of seeding up until May 31 of the following year. Seeding must be completed by July 1 for legumes and legume/grass mixes and by September 1 for grasses.

The deadline to apply for this insurance is October 15, but you can apply as soon as your crop is seeded. When you apply after your seeding date, an inspection is required before coverage will be offered. This plan offers two levels of coverage which are \$200/acre coverage (producer premium - \$5.00/acre) and \$100/acre coverage (producer premium = \$2.50/acre).

## Weather Derivative Plan for Forage

This plan targets crop losses related to weather events. It guarantees 80% of the average long term rainfall (mm) at a designated local weather station over a period of time (May 1 - August 31). An optional Quality Rider is also available for excessive rainfall in the month of June during prime harvest time. Managed pastures and stored forage acreage can be insured. The *Weather Derivative Plan for Forage* provides a guarantee of 80% of the long term average rainfall (30 year averages). A producer can choose 2, 3 or 4 months of drought coverage between May 1 and August 31. Any or all of the managed forage and/or pasture on your farm can be insured for up to \$288 per acre.

With the Quality Rider, when three consecutive days of rainfall of at least 5 mm are recorded, a payment of 20% of your guarantee is triggered. Producers can receive up to two payments under this Quality Rider during the month of June. For the weather plan, rainfall measurements are based on the recorded rainfall from sites around the province, primarily at Environment Canada weather stations. Producers select the site nearest their farm.

This plan differs from other insurance plans since there are no yield measurements required. Once a drought or excess rainfall event occurs, based on Environment Canada weather statistics, a payment is triggered. Both the *Weather Derivative Plan for Forage* and the *Forage Establishment Plan* require an annual application. For more information including the cost sharing with government for these programs contact one of our offices.

## Have you reported your yield for 2015?

To provide accurate coverage to our clients, the Commission needs your harvested yield report for 2015. If clients do not report their actual yield, the Commission assumes you have harvested at least the guaranteed production listed on your Certificate of Insurance. In years where you had very good production and where you do not report to the Commission, you are missing an opportunity to have this reflected in your yield history. What this means for you is that in a future claim year, your claim may not be as much as it could have been if the good experience was properly reported.

To ensure you have the best coverage possible, be sure to accurately report your yields.

For information on any of the insurance plans, contact the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission at 1-800-565-6371 Toll Free, 902-893-6370 Truro, or 902-679-6015 Kentville,

Or visit our website at:

<http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/financial-funding/crop-livestock-insurance/>

You can also visit our offices at:

60 Research Drive, Suite A  
Perennia Innovation Park  
Bible Hill NS B6L 2R2

Or

32 Main Street  
Agricultural Centre  
Kentville NS B4N 1J5



## **The 2015 Bioproduct Pilot Program is Now Open**

The administration of the Bio-Products Fund, which is meant to be a catalyst for developing the bio-products industry in Canada, has moved to Perennia from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (NSDA). John McCabe has been seconded from NSDA for a two-year term to continue co-ordinating work in this area.

The Bioproduct Pilot Program provide funds to pilot, test or demonstrate new bioproducts, such as biomaterials, biofuels, bioenergy, biochemical and Agri-Food Products based in agriculture. The objective of the Bioproduct Pilot Program is to optimize research and commercialization efforts through coordinated approaches and support supply chain development of new bioproduct opportunities. Projects must demonstrate new technologies, processes or business models which promote awareness, encourage implementation, or facilitate the adoption of new bioproducts in the agriculture sector. Funds can be made available for multi-year initiatives to a maximum of three years beginning from 2015/16, two years beginning from the 2016/17 and one year for the 2017/18 fiscal years.

Assistance on eligible costs may be up to 75 percent of total project costs (eligible cash expenses) to a maximum of \$50,000 per year. The lifetime cap for an applicant under this program is \$100,000. Eligible applicants include Nova Scotia farmers, agri-businesses registered in Nova Scotia, and universities, organizations and commodity groups in Nova Scotia. Contact John McCabe for further information and to receive an application for the Bioproduct Pilot Program.

This program is funded under Growing Forward 2 and cost shared 60/40 between the federal and provincial governments.

John McCabe  
Bioproduct Development Officer  
Perennia  
Email: [jmccabe@perennia.ca](mailto:jmccabe@perennia.ca)  
Office: 902 896-0277  
Cell: 902 890-1274  
Fax: 902 896-7299  
[www.perennia.ca](http://www.perennia.ca)

## **New Horticulturist at Perennia**

Perennia is pleased to announce that Jennifer Haverstock has joined its team as a horticulturist focusing on small fruits.

Jennifer will be working with John Lewis until the end of March 2016 when John will be leaving Perennia to pursue other opportunities.

Jennifer is a Certified Crop Advisor and has worked in sustainable agriculture development across Atlantic Canada, giving her a unique understanding of the challenges and opportunities throughout the region.

Throughout her career she has been involved in collaborative research, extension, and implementation of projects in nutrient management, manure management, and integrated pest management across agriculture sectors. She has had great success in building and maintaining relationships with farmers and is well versed in educating people from a range of backgrounds on agronomic and soil related issues. Her particular strengths include soil fertility, nutrient management and cropping innovations

Originally from Truro, Nova Scotia, Jennifer most recently worked for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador as an Agriculturist with the Alternative Feeds Program.

She has over nine year of practical and academic experience with a M.Sc. in Agricultural Chemistry from the former Nova Scotia Agricultural College and extensive work experience in agriculture extension and applied research.

Please feel free to contact Jennifer at (902) 678-7722, ext 222; (902) 670-5003 or [jhaverstock@perennia.ca](mailto:jhaverstock@perennia.ca)

## **Perennia 2016 Formal Food Safety Training Schedule**

Visit [www.perennia.ca](http://www.perennia.ca) for more information or to register.

### **HACCP1 - Prerequisite**

#### **Programs**

April 4-5, 2016

Cost: \$930

Registration Deadline: March 21, 2016

Location: Truro, Nova Scotia

At the end of the program, you will be able to:

- Describe the components of a HACCP prerequisite program
- Begin the process of implementing a prerequisite program
- Identify good manufacturing practices
- Document your prerequisite program

### **HACCP 2 - Developing Your HACCP Plans**

April 6-8, 2016

Cost: \$1205

Registration Deadline: March 23, 2016

Location: Truro, Nova Scotia

At the end of the program, you will be able to:

- Discuss food safety, food quality, global food safety standards and prerequisite programs as building blocks for HACCP
- Differentiate between physical, chemical and biological hazards

- Apply the Codex 12 steps to HACCP to develop and maintain your own HACCP plans
- Conduct a hazard analysis and utilize the HACCP decision tree to identify critical control points

### **Implementing SQF Systems**

May 30-31, 2016

Cost: \$930

Registration Deadline: May 16, 2016

Location: Truro, Nova Scotia

At the end of the program, you will be able to:

- Discuss the updates to the SQF Code, from Edition 7.1 to Edition 7.2, food sector categories and corresponding modules
- Describe the SQF System elements
- Differentiate between Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 certification
- Implement and maintain SQF Systems
- Develop, validate and verify your food safety and quality plans and SQF System
- Prepare for SQF certification
- Understand requirements for SQF Practitioners and SQF Consultants

### **Internal Auditor: SQF**

June 1, 2016

Cost: \$695

Registration Deadline: May 18, 2016

Location: Truro, Nova Scotia

At the end of the program, you will be able to:

- Plan an effective internal audit of your food safety management system in compliance to the SQF Code
- Apply techniques in planning, executing, reporting and following up on audits
- Use your audit results as a tool for corrective action and continual improvement

### **Safe Food for Canadians Act**

June 2, 2016

Cost: \$695

Registration Deadline: May 19, 2016

Location: Truro, Nova Scotia

At the end of the program, you will be able to:

- Identify the regulatory compliance components under the new act
- Understand what enhanced inspections would mean for you and your business
- Assess the preventative approach to food safety and what it means to you
- Identify the steps you need to take in order to be compliant with the enhanced regulations in a timely manner

### **Risk Assessment and Food Safety**

June 3, 2016

Cost: \$695

Registration Deadline: May 20, 2016

Location: Truro, Nova Scotia

At the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Describe the reasons for doing a risk assessment
- Define various tools and methods for risk assessment
- Discuss steps in food safety risk assessment
- Differentiate between the decision tree and quantitative approach to risk assessment
- Integrate risk assessment with the various GFSI standards

### **BRC Global Standard for Food Issue 7 - Understanding the Requirements**

September 12-13, 2016

Cost: \$930

Registration Deadline: August 29, 2016

Location: Truro, Nova Scotia

At the end of the program, you will be able to:

- Understand the background and benefits of the standard
- Understand protocol and requirements of the standard
- Understand the details of the standard
- Understand audit planning and the events during and after an audit
- Understand the current compliance monitoring of certification bodies by the BRC

### **Internal Auditor: BRC**

September 14, 2016

Cost: \$695

Registration Deadline: August 31, 2016

Location: Truro, Nova Scotia

At the end of the program, you will be able to:

- Plan an effective internal audit of your food safety and quality management system in compliance with the BRC
- Apply techniques in planning, executing, reporting and following up on audits
- Use your audit results as a tool for corrective action

### **Problem Solving: Root Cause Analysis**

September 15-16, 2016

Cost: \$930 + HST

Registration Deadline: September 1, 2016

Location: Truro, Nova Scotia

Root cause analysis begins by identifying the problem and tracking down the source or variation in order to identify and address the cause of the problem. Incorporating RCA into your food safety system helps you to quickly identify the source of problems and mitigate the risks. This one-day program is the next step in problem solving and teaches you how to adopt the root cause analysis methodology to solve complex food safety and quality issues. The program uses case studies and role playing to analyze and solve food safety and quality problems.

# **Dalhousie University**

## **Faculty of Agriculture**

### **Atlantic Mink Production - Improving On-Farm Efficiency**

The Mink Production Course: Improving On-Farm Efficiency is a 3-day training event held January 5, 6 and 7, 2016 at the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus in Bible Hill, Nova Scotia. This course will increase the competitiveness of Mink Ranchers and assist them to become resilient in times of uncertain markets. The course will provide tools and resources that can be immediately applied on farm after the course. Mink Ranchers and Employees from the Atlantic Region are welcome.

Course Dates: January 5-7, 2016

### **Food Microbiology Techniques**

Improve your hands-on skills in food lab techniques. This course has been developed to help you advance your career and gain **hands-on experience** in the **Food Lab**. In this interactive, hands-on course, participants will work in small groups under the guidance of **highly experienced instructors**.

Course Dates: January 6-8, 2016



*Faculty of Agriculture*

## **Project Management Essentials**

Planning a renovation, adding new technology, building new farm structures, expanding your business all require the understanding and management of tasks to get the job done on time, and on budget. This course provides new project managers and project team members the essential tools they need to deliver successful projects. In our most popular course, a generic project is managed through the complete project life cycle, from initiating, through project planning and execution, to project close-out.

Course Dates: January 11-13, 2016

## **Communicating for Results on the Family Farm**

Skills training for Atlantic Young Farmers!

Working with the ones you love on the family farm can be the best of times or the worst of times. Let's improve your communication skills.

Farm succession expert Dr. John Fast will be delivering this event on Dalhousie's Faculty of Agriculture campus. Communicating for Results on the Family Farm is a skills-training workshop for young farmers. This workshop will provide you with new vocabulary and practical skills.

Course Dates: February 12-13, 2016  
Registration Deadline: January 25, 2016

## **Application of Pesticides**

Improve your knowledge and skills in the application of pesticides with an emphasis on application in the agricultural industry. Eligible course participants will be awarded five re-certification points in the Nova Scotia Pesticide Re-certification Program.

Course Dates: February 16, 2016  
Registration Deadline: February 1, 2016

## **Cultivating Your Food Product Idea at Foodcamp**

Extended Learning is teaming up with Cultiv8, Perennia and Acadia University's Sandbox, launchbox, to bring you Foodcamp – a unique opportunity for food product entrepreneurs and wannabees in Atlantic Canada! Do you have a food product idea and aren't sure how to take it beyond the "idea stage"? A food product in development, but need help connecting to consumers, developing a business case or creating a prototype?

Not sure how to navigate the process for regulatory and labeling requirements? If so, Foodcamp is for you. Designed to support entrepreneurs as they navigate the development process, this modularized offering will connect you to the people and resources you need to develop your ideas and value-added food products. The targeted modules will help you build and enhance the skills you need to bring your products from idea to reality.

For course dates and registration deadlines check out the website [Extended.learning@dal.ca](mailto:Extended.learning@dal.ca)

For more information on courses and programs contact

Extended Learning Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture

PO Box 550 Truro NS B2N 5E3

902.893.6666

[Extended.learning@dal.ca](mailto:Extended.learning@dal.ca)



## **Agricultural Ambassador Program Training**

The Agriculture Education Office would like to recognize those of you in the farm community who have agreed to be an Ag Ambassador. Our Ag Ambassadors act as liaisons between the farm community and our Agricultural Education Office to help us tell the good news stories of agriculture in the province through events and publications.

We are planning a kick-off event in the New Year to provide "Real Dirt on Farming" training to Ag Ambassadors. "The Real Dirt on Farming" is a terrific publication that provides information to the public on Canadian Agriculture. <http://www.realdirtontfarming.ca/> "Real Dirt" Training will provide Ag Ambassadors with skills to effectively communicate good news stories of agriculture, as well as handle tough topics related to agriculture.

This training can be used in future when faced with questions from consumers or others who want to learn more about agriculture practices in Nova Scotia.

We will host two gatherings to meet the Ag Ambassadors, provide training and discuss opportunities to raise appreciation for agriculture across the province. If you are interested in representing an agricultural sector or a county federation of agriculture as an Ag Ambassador, there is still time to contact the Agricultural Awareness Coordinator, Judy Grant at 902-893-6598 or [Ag.Education@novascotia.ca](mailto:Ag.Education@novascotia.ca).



## THINKFARM's *Barriers to Growth* Research Project

The *Barriers to Growth Research Project* began with the idea of evaluating profiles of Nova Scotia farms in order to establish if there are significant numbers of farms with desire for business growth and if so, to determine the barriers that may be preventing this progression.

To obtain individual farms' information, an online survey was created in the spring of 2015. The survey posed questions on farmers' motivation for farming, whether they had desire to grow their farm business, and what barriers to growth they have experienced. This survey was advertised and made available to all producers in the province.

The second phase of the research project is now underway. Our research team consists of several expert staff from the Research and Analytics.

Section of the Department of Agriculture along with Dr. Steven Dukeshire from the Department of Business and Social Sciences, Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture.

The team is analyzing all of the valuable data and planning the follow-up focus group sessions. These sessions will provide more context and qualitative data surrounding the barriers identified in the survey.

We have more than 40 farm volunteers located across the province and are planning to hold three focus group sessions from January 14-28. The final results will be used to assess THINKFARM and other Departmental programs and services to determine if they can be modified in order to remove some of the barriers to farm growth in the province.

For more information contact:

Laura Boudreau  
ThinkFARM Coordinator  
Phone: 902-893-5649  
[Laura.Boudreau@novascotia.ca](mailto:Laura.Boudreau@novascotia.ca)

### Your Regional Agricultural Offices

#### Extension and Outreach

Marion MacAulay, Manager

#### Truro Office

East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester and Halifax  
Counties:

Tel: 902-893-6575 Fax: 902-893-2757

Jillian Garland, Admin. Assistant

Michael Kittilsen, Agricultural Resource  
Coordinator

Jacqueline Hoyt, Agriculture Leadership  
Coordinator

Vacant - Business Development Officer

Rebecca Sooksom, Agricultural Transition  
Officer

#### Antigonish Office

Pictou, Antigonish and Guysborough Counties:

Tel: 902-863-4705 Fax: 902-863-7342

Laureen Boyd, Admin. Assistant

Dawn Barrington-Hodgson, Agriculture  
Leadership Coordinator

Terri MacPherson, Agricultural Transition Officer

Adam Wile, Agricultural Resource Coordinator

#### Sydney Office

Cape Breton, Victoria, Inverness and Richmond  
Counties:

Tel: 902-563-2000 Fax: 902-563-3435

Catherine Plumridge, Admin. Assistant

Gary Koziel, Agricultural Resource Coordinator

Rhonda MacDougall (Mabou) and Marina Gillis  
(Sydney), Agriculture

Leadership Coordinators

Jeff Hennessey, Business Development Officer

#### Kentville Office

West Hants, Kings, Lunenburg and Queens  
Counties:

Tel: 902-679-6021 Fax: 902-679-6062

Cheryl Theriau, Admin. Assistant

Brian MacCulloch, Agricultural Resource  
Coordinator

Colin Hirtle, Agriculture Leadership  
Coordinator, South Shore

Vacant - Agriculture Leadership Coordinator,  
Valley

Ronald Young, Agricultural Transition  
Officer, Kentville

Jeff Wentzell, Business Development  
Officer, Kentville

#### Cornwallis Office

Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth and Shelburne  
Counties:

Tel: 902-638-2395 Fax: 902-638-2389

Gina Chapelhow, Admin. Assistant

Jean Ward, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator

Terry McKay, Agricultural Resource  
Coordinator, Western Region

Nicole Burkhard, Agricultural Transition Officer

# Programs and Business Risk Management Division Updates

Department of Agriculture offers a number of programs focusing on innovation, competitiveness and market development to help producers grow their business and capitalize on emerging opportunities.

Programs currently accepting applications are the Business Development and Market Enhancement section of Home Grown Success, Building Industry Capacity, Market Development and Investment Attraction and Vineyard Development and Expansion.

Programs for the 2016-17 fiscal year will open through the late winter/ early spring season. Please watch the Department of Agriculture website at <http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/financial-funding/growing-forward2/> and NSFA e-news for notice of upcoming program announcements and messages.

## Market Development and Investment Attraction – NEW\*

The Market Development and Investment Attraction program under Growing Forward 2 is a three-year program commencing in 2015-16 fiscal year.

The objectives of this program are to encourage the agriculture, agri-food and seafood industries to expand their market share and foster economic growth through:

- 1) accessing new and emerging markets;
- 2) retaining and expanding existing markets; and
- 3) developing and marketing value-added products that are globally competitive.

The intent is to optimize and accelerate growth and development of the agriculture, agri-food industry and seafood industries. The ability to enhance the domestic and international competitiveness of the overall sector through collaboration and partnering is an integral component of the Market Development and Investment Attraction program.

The Market Development and Investment Attraction Program is proposal based. Proposals must include a business case and the financial impact of your project must be clearly identified as they apply to your industry, or agri-food business, as well as to the rural economy of Nova Scotia. Funding decisions are made by the Review Committee based on an assessment of the full proposal. The program guidelines and applications detailing how submissions are rated are on the Department of Agriculture web site at <http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/financial-funding/growing-forward2/>.

## Vineyard Development and Expansion Program

The Vineyard Development and Expansion program aims to assist the Nova Scotia wine grape industry to better position Nova Scotia within the market place. This will be achieved by supporting the primary industry to increased production, enhance competitiveness and capture new markets. This program will help ensure the on-going viability of this industry in rural Nova Scotia. The Vineyard Development and Expansion initiative is a provincially funded program. The program guidelines and applications are on the Department of Agriculture web site at <http://novascotia.ca/programs/vineyard-development-and-expansion/>



## Claim Deadline

Did you know that you can submit a claim any time and submit more than one claim? The final deadline is March 1, 2016 for individuals and organizations that received funding for the 2015-16 fiscal year. If you want to avoid delays and get a head of the crowd, submit your claim early. The claim form can be found on the Department of Agriculture website at <http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/financial-funding/growing-forward2/>.

If you require additional information on any of these initiatives please contact Programs and Business Risk Management at: 902- 893-6510 or toll free at 1-866-844-4276

# Holiday Food Safety

Food plays an important role in holiday gatherings and food safety should always be kept in mind while planning, shopping, storing, preparing food and handling leftovers.

These four simple rules will help ensure a happy and healthy holiday season:

**Clean:** Wash hands, contact surfaces (like kitchen counters) and utensils often to avoid the spread of bacteria. Always wash fresh fruits and vegetables with clean, running water that is safe to drink.

**Separate:** Keep raw foods separate from cooked and ready-to-eat foods to avoid cross-contamination. Always place raw foods below cooked and ready to eat foods in refrigerator. Never place cooked food back on the same plate or cutting board that previously held raw food.

**Cook:** Make sure you kill harmful bacteria by cooking foods to the proper internal temperature. When you think the food is almost ready, remove it from the heat source and insert the thermometer in the thickest part of the food, away from bone, fat or gristle. Keep cooking if the proper temperature has not been reached. Recommended temperatures for foods are 82°C (180°F) for whole poultry, 74°C (165°F) for stuffing, casseroles, leftovers, egg dishes, ground turkey and ground chicken, including sausages containing poultry meat, 71°C (160°F) for pork chops, ribs and roasts, and for ground beef, ground pork and ground veal, including sausages, at least 63°C (145°F) for all whole muscle beef and veal cuts, like steaks and roasts.

**Chill:** Keep cold foods cold (at or below 4°C / 40°F). Eat cold foods while they are still cold. Remove bones from large pieces of meat or poultry and divide them into smaller portions before storing. Throw out perishable food that has been allowed to sit at room temperature for more than two hours.

## Other Food Safety Holiday suggestions include:

Cook stuffing separately in the oven in its own dish, or on the stove top, to a minimum internal temperature of 74°C (165°F). If you choose to stuff your turkey, stuff it loosely just before roasting, and remove all stuffing right after cooking.

If you are serving food buffet-style, use warming trays, chafing dishes or crock pots to keep hot foods hot (at or above 60°C / 140°F). Keep cold foods cold by putting serving trays on crushed ice. If food remains at room temperature for more than two hours, **throw it away**.

If you are making drinks with fresh fruit juices or cider, check the label to see if the product has been pasteurized. If the juice or cider is not pasteurized boil the product before serving, especially if it is to be served to the young or elderly.

Store-bought eggnog is pasteurized and does not require heating to kill harmful bacteria. If you are making eggnog at home, you should use pasteurized egg and milk ingredients, which are available at many grocery



stores, or heat the egg-milk mixture to at least 71°C (160°F) and then refrigerate in small amounts using shallow containers so it will cool quickly.

- Refrigerate all leftovers promptly in uncovered, shallow containers so they cool quickly. Refrigerate once steaming stops and leave the lid off or wrap loosely until the food is cooled to refrigerator temperature. Store turkey meat separately from stuffing and gravy. Use refrigerated leftovers within two to three days or freeze right away for later use.
- Avoid overstocking the refrigerator, so that cool air can circulate effectively.
- Reheat solid leftovers, such as turkey and potatoes, to at least 74°C (165°F). Bring gravy to a full, rolling boil and stir a few times while reheating.
- When travelling with food as always, keep hot foods hot (at or above 60°C / 140°F) and cold foods cold (at or below 4°C / 40°F). Transport hot food in insulated containers with hot packs or wrapped in foil and heavy towels. Transport cold food in a cooler with ice or freezer packs.
- You cannot tell whether food is contaminated by the way it looks, smells or tastes. As a general rule of food safety:

## When in doubt, throw it out!

For more information about Food Safety visit the website at <http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/food-protection/factsheets-publications/>

The Food Protection Division is now located at NS Environment – Environmental Health and Food Safety Division.

# Cranberry Apple Crisp

**Cook Time: 60 minutes**

**Ingredients:**

3 cups unpeeled, chopped apples (750 ml)

2 cups cranberries (500 ml)

3/4 cup granulated sugar (75 ml)

1.5 cups rolled oats (375 ml)

1/2 cup brown sugar (125 ml)

1/3 cup all- purpose flour (75 ml)

1/3 cup chopped pecans (125 ml)

1/4 cup melted butter (50 ml)

**Method:**

1. In an 8 inch square baking dish, combine apples, cranberries and granulated sugar, and mix thoroughly to blend. In a small bowl, combine rolled oats, brown sugar, flour and nuts until well mixed. Add butter and mix with a fork until the mixture forms a coarse crumb. Spread crumb mixture evenly over the fruit.
2. Bake in a preheated 350° F (180° C) oven for 1 hour or until fruit is tender.
3. Serve hot with whipped cream or ice cream.

For more Christmas recipe ideas visit [www.selectnovascotia.ca](http://www.selectnovascotia.ca)



## Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

### Interest Rates

As of October 1, 2015 (applicable to loans approved on or after this date while these rates remain in effect)

Length (years)	Full Term	*10-Yr. Term	*5-Yr. Term	*3-Yr. Term
1-5	2.55%		2.55%	2.30%
6-10	3.10%	3.10%	2.85%	2.45%
11-15	3.75%	3.50%	2.95%	2.60%
16-20	4.30%	3.85%	3.00%	2.60%
21-25	4.65%	3.90%	3.05%	2.60%
26-30	4.95%	3.90%	3.05%	2.60%

\* 3, 5 and 10 year term rates available to clients meeting risk, cashflow, and collateral requirements.

The Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board supports agricultural development such as: property purchase / improvements, construction, machinery / quota / stock purchase, financial restructure, and farm transition. The Board is committed to helping you with your individual financial needs.

A Loan Officer will also have information concerning programs and other services offered by Nova Scotia Agriculture.

Call or visit a Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board office:

**Truro 902-893-6506**

Dalhousie University Agricultural College Campus, 137 College Road

**Kentville 902-679-6009**

[novascotia.ca/farmloan](http://novascotia.ca/farmloan)



## 4-H Provincial News

### Richmond County 4-H Leaders Volunteer 360 Years of Service

It is often said that it takes a community to raise a child but more so it is the special people in that community that provide guidance, understanding and knowledge to help young people grow and learn.

Nine Nova Scotia 4-H leaders were recently honoured at the annual Richmond County 4-H Awards Night and banquet for their remarkable tenure of community service and dedication as volunteers to the provincial 4-H program. Between them they have contributed 360 years of volunteer service as 4-H leaders.

Considering the number of leaders in the county's two clubs is around 17, these numbers become even more impressive.

Those exceptional individuals are

Eva Landry (60 years),  
Doug Landry (50 years),  
Stewart Carter (35 years),  
Edward Touesnard (20 years) and Leona Collier (5 years) with the Lakeside 4-H Club in St. Peter's.

Peter LeBlanc (35 years) and Lorraine Gates (25 years) from the River Bourgeois 4-H Club.

Adrienne Smith (25 years) and Lori Curtis (5 years) from the County Line 4-H Club in Cleveland.

It is leaders like this who inspire others to volunteer and show that 4-H is an organization that has a lot to offer for its volunteers as well as members.

4-H has had a presence in St. Peter's for over 75 years and Eva and Doug have been instrumental in many community development projects there. They have seen evidence of the 4-H influence in their community where volunteering and co-operation are hallmarks of everyday living and there is a pride in community which is shared by all.

In 1972, Doug and Eva were instrumental in the creation of Camp Rankin, the provincial 4-H camp. Ever since then the 4-H leaders in Richmond County work as a team to raise money for the camp and maintain the facilities.

Eva began her 4-H career as a young teacher. Until then, Eva had never heard of 4-H but eager to learn she became the 4-H sewing leader.



**CANADA**  
4-H Nova Scotia

"I have often been asked why I stayed with the program so long and why I never miss an opportunity to promote 4-H," said Eva. "It is because in my 42 years as an educator and now 60 years as a 4-H leader, I have become convinced that there is no other youth program that does as much to develop character; to help kids find their strengths and build upon them, thereby giving them a positive-self-image; to develop a social consciousness in young people at an early age; and to give them the tools to help them take an active role in society - learning how to conduct a meeting, how to speak in public and how to make decisions, as emphasized in judging."

Eva has been the recipient of the Canadian 4-H Council *Volunteer Leader of the Year* award and the *Order of Canada*.

All these remarkable 4-H leaders have spent a lifetime of demonstrating their dedication to youth and the desire to see each individual reach his or her potential. They all plan on continuing their work with the 4-H program for years to come.

## **Atlantic 4-H Conference - Out of the World Ag... citing**

Mark your calendar for March 18 - 20, 2016.

Atlantic 4-H members, ages 12 - 15 years of age, will gather at the Debert Hospitality Centre to focus on innovations in food, science and agriculture through interactive sessions, demonstrations and tours of Dal AC and Perennia.

Check with your Regional Agricultural Leadership Coordinator in January for applications.

## **4-H Member Competed in the International 4-H Judging Seminar**

Jordon Vosman, Antigonish County represented Nova Scotia at the Canadian National 4-H and Youth Judging Seminar during the Canadian Western Agribition in Regina, Saskatchewan.

During the Grand Champion Judging Competition at the Nova Scotia 4-H Show in September, Jordon placed three livestock and three life skills classes and gave oral reasons on four to win the trip to Agribition.

Jordon attended the International 4-H Judging Seminar along with as many as 80 delegates from across Canada and the United States. This competition fosters the future development of young judges for the agricultural industry and provides a high profile and competitive judging experience.

To participate in this international judging competition competitors must be 17 - 21 years of age and will compete in judging livestock classes and provide oral reasons to a judge in those classes identified. A total of 12 minutes per class is allotted to judge each class.

Aggregate scores were based on total scores of the classes plus scores of the oral reasons. Cash prizes were awarded to the Grand Aggregate and the highest placing Canadian competitor.

During the year Nova Scotia 4-H members learn to judge the projects in which they are enrolled. Each member compares four (4) items or animals (related to their project topic), places them from best to worst and give reasons for their placing. Besides developing confidence in 4-H members the judging exercise teaches them decision making, communication skills and how to deliver their opinions with conviction.

## **4-H Canada Leadership Summit**

Seven 4-H Leaders from Nova Scotia will meet with other volunteers from across the country at the 4-H Canada Leadership Summit February 18 - 21 in Ottawa.

The 4-H leaders will be participating in two days of workshops focusing on the theme of the Environment and Healthy Living. Keynote presentations, workshops and hands-on demonstrations will provide tools and ideas for engaging 4-H youth in experiential learning. Additional streams will be offered that explore best practice in 4-H programming, administration, risk management and funds development.

Nova Scotia 4-H Leaders are selected by an application process that focuses on their contribution to the 4-H program on many levels.

The deserving winners are:

Dianne Cox and Amy Levesconte, Inverness County,  
Sally vandewiel, Antigonish County,  
Cathy Lavers, Pictou County,  
Catherine Manning, Hants County,  
Dianne Barrie, Lunenburg County and  
Jacqueline Melvin, Kings County.

While at the 4-H Leadership Summit leaders can connect with other volunteers and strengthen the 4-H network across Canada; share ideas, skills and knowledge; learn to promote the health and well-being of 4-H club members and leaders; and collection information to make a positive environmental impact in communities and inspire others to take on environmental stewardship.



## Nova Scotia 4-H Members Attended the Royal Winter Fair

Eighteen 4-H livestock members with the highest caliber dairy and beef heifers represented team Nova Scotia at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in early November. They competed in two prestigious cattle shows - The Royal Dairy Classic and the Royal Canadian Junior Beef Heifer Classic. Selections for this competition were made based on the quality of their calf at the Nova Scotia 4-H Show.

While at the Royal, 4-H members competed in the 4-H showmanship and conformation cattle classes, participated in a provincial display contest and spent a day seeing the rest of the events at the exhibition.

Eight 4-H dairy members competed against 4-H members from across Canada in the Royal Dairy Classic: Hayley and Sarah Wilson, Inverness County; Taylor Masters, Lane Yuill, Cole Yuill, Riley Masters, Colchester County; Albert Ellis and Lesley Anderson, Halifax East Hants. The spare was Charlea Lowe, Colchester County.

Sarah Wilson from Inverness County won the Versteeg Memorial Award. This award is presented to a 4-H dairy member based on a 50/ 50 split for the conformation of the calf and their showmanship ability.

The ten members representing Nova Scotia with their beef heifers at the Canadian Junior Beef Heifer Classic were: Thian Carmen, Mitchell Best and Sarah Morse, Kings County; Gillian Davidson, Hants County; William Cooper, and Emily Ross, Colchester County; Jay Woodworth and Michelle Larkin, Halifax East Hants; Patrick Milner and Alex Goodwin, Cumberland County.

The dedicated work of the Royal Dairy Classic Committee and the Royal Canadian Junior Beef Heifer Classic Selections committee results in the 4-H members being able to attend the Royal Winter Fair and compete in the 4-H cattle classes. The Nova Scotia committee members obtain funding sponsorship and organize this event on a provincial and national level. Annual financial support from major sponsors, producers, individuals and businesses, provide the 4-H delegates with this tremendous opportunity.



**CANADA**  
4-H Nova Scotia

## 4-H Member Placed Second at National Communications Competition

Simon Greenough is interested in pursuing one or more of these professions, a doctor, astronaut or comedian. He says they all have one thing in common – communication.

Simon, a 19 year old former Hants County 4-H member, recently placed second in the National 4-H Young Speakers for Agriculture competition at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto. The topic of his speech was: *Here's how our changing climate is affecting Canadian Agriculture*. He credits his win to the confidence he's developed through learning public speaking in 4-H. "4-H built the foundation for all the skills needed to do this type of competition."

It was the first time Simon had competed in this competition and found that it was well organized. "It was neat to see the caliber of everyone's speeches. In Hants County every 4-H member has to do public speaking. Every year I competed I started to see people using different styles in their speeches and I used pieces of each to make it my own."

Currently Simon is taking biology at the University of New Brunswick and to keep his communications skills sharp he MC's at university events, works at the radio station and writes comedy for radio drama.

## **Regional News** Cape Breton: Cape Breton, Victoria, Inverness and Richmond Counties

### **Expressions of Interest - Workplace Education for Cape Breton Farm Businesses**

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture in partnership with the Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Advanced Education and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture is looking for member interest in an offer for a customized Financial Management 40 hour training program free of charge to NSFA members, family members or employees.

The contents of each of these courses will be adjusted to meet the needs of the group. Space is limited to 12 participants per course and a minimum of 10.

If you are interested in finding more about this exciting program please contact Jeff Hennessey, Business Development Officer Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture  
[Jeff.Hennessey@novascotia.ca](mailto:Jeff.Hennessey@novascotia.ca)  
Phone: 902-563-2418

### **Farm Business Development - Great Ideas Wanted**

Have you recognized the need for business training for your farm? Is there a particular area that you are interested in or would like to develop a better understanding? Do you have a vision for the future of your farm but see an obstacle that needs to be overcome? Do you have an idea for an additional revenue stream for your business but don't know where to begin?

We would like to hear from you so we can assist you in overcoming these challenges. If we can identify common areas that farmers are interested in, we will be able to develop workshops or bring workshops offered in other parts of the province to Cape Breton.

If you have an idea for a workshop of any sort, please let us know. If you know of an issue but would like direct assistance, let us know and we'll schedule a meeting to discuss how we can help. You can contact any member of our regional team at 902-563-2000.

### **Hay for Sale?**

The Cape Breton office of the Department of Agriculture is gathering a contact list of individuals who have or will have hay for sale this 2015-16 winter season. Each year the regional offices receive numerous calls from livestock owners who are looking to purchase hay and other feeds; if you would like to have your name added to the contact list or if you are looking to purchase hay please call us at 902-563-2000 or email [Catherine.Plumridge@novascotia.ca](mailto:Catherine.Plumridge@novascotia.ca)

### **Soil and Water Sampling**

The Strathlorne Nursery is now accepting soil and water samples for delivery to our labs in Truro. Sample kits and information can be picked up at their office in the main building. For more information contact Shirley MacArthur at 902-258-2626.

### **ATTENTION: Recycling Used Pesticide Containers - Here's What to Do:**

Allow the liquid to drain from the container for at least 30 seconds. Fill 20% of the container with water, replace lid, and rotate so that the interior of the container is rinsed. Empty the rinse water into the spray tank and drain for 30 seconds. Repeat the above procedure twice. Render containers unusable by puncturing. Leave label on the container. Containers that have been handled in this way are technically suitable for disposal.

The United Farmers Co-op on Keltic Drive in Sydney River is now accepting properly cleaned pesticide containers for recycling. You can drop off containers at the CO-OP COUNTRY STORE for recycling - please see staff prior to dropping off containers. NO five gallon buckets or plastic bags are accepted.

### **Upcoming Regional Activities for 2016**

- First Aid Training for Farmers- Sydney, Mabou
- Grape Production 101 - Port Hawkesbury
- GPS for Agriculture - Mabou
- Small Flock Poultry - Cape Breton
- Silage Quality Workshop - Mabou

For information on these workshops, or if you have suggestions for new workshop ideas, please contact our Regional office at 902-563-2000 or [Gary.Koziel@novascotia.ca](mailto:Gary.Koziel@novascotia.ca)

# Cape Breton 4-H News:

## *Let's All Be Green in 2016*

The Cape Breton Regional 4-H program is wrapping up another successful year. A huge thank you goes out to all the leaders and volunteers with the 4-H program who make the events so successful. Also, a big congratulations to all the 4-H members within the Cape Breton region who showed great talent and determination in completing their project work.

This year's membership consisted of 262 active members, 31 of them being Cloverbuds (youth age 7-8years old) and 77 volunteer leaders from the four counties. This is an increase in our Cloverbud program and speaks to the ongoing popularity of this program on the island.

This year we had 11 registered 4-H clubs in the four counties on the island. 4-H members are enrolled in 16 different livestock and 17 different life skills projects. Out of all our volunteer leaders, 15 % come from farms, 73% from rural communities and 12% reside in urban areas.

For this year's youth membership, 13% were from farms, 69 % from rural communities and 18% from urban areas. These numbers are similar to previous years. Youth membership consists of 69% girls and 31% boys. The 4-H program offers all youth an opportunity for leadership development, agricultural awareness, travel, livestock and life skill project training.

We would like to extend a welcome to a new members in the region and encourage them to connect with 4-H communities to get the full benefit from this fantastic program.

## **4-H Leader Tenure Acknowledgment**

The following 4-H rural leaders in the region reached a milestone in leader tenure this fall. Special thanks for their on-going support of rural youth and community leadership.

Kelly Kirk, Rising Sun 4-H Club, 10 years  
Beverly Kirk, Rising Sun 4-H Club, 25 years

## **Inverness County**

Amy Levesconte, Southwest Mabou 4-H Club, 5 years  
Ruthanne Hart, Margaree Riverside 4-H Club, 5 years  
Carol Van den Hoogen, Southwest Mabou 4-H Club, 15 years

## **Richmond County**

Lori Curtis, County Line 4-H Club, 5 years  
Leona Collier - 5 years, Lakeside 4-H Club

Edward Touesnard, 20 years, Lakeside 4-H Club

Adrienne Smith, 25 years, County Line 4-H Club  
Lorraine Gates, 25 years, River Bourgeois 4-H Club

Stewart Carter , Lakeside 4-H Club, 35 years  
Peter LeBlanc, River Bourgeois 4-H Club, 35 years

Doug Landry, Lakeside 4-H Club, 50 years

Eva Landry, Lakeside 4-H Club, 60 years

## **Spotlight on BuSiNeSS Sense**

4-H members are a keen group of young people with tremendous skills. Many senior 4-H members have developed a varied skill set during their years in the program, including strong communications and organizational skills, the ability to make decisions based on knowledge and facts, and time and people management skills.

Many have excellent technical skills - from cake decorating to dog training, from computer knowledge to cattle show preparation and breeding, and from cooking to growing vegetables and flowers. These skills make 4-H members excellent potential employees and also make them strong contenders for running their own business.

Through a partnership with Students in Business and the Community Business Development Centres (CBDC) several 4-H members were selected to attend a conference in November based on their creative project work and potential for entrepreneurship.



**CANADA**  
4-H Nova Scotia

## **Upcoming Food Handler Courses 2016**

### **Antigonish**

January 27 - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.,  
St. Ninian's Cathedral

For future course schedules please bookmark:

<http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/food-protection/>

Registration forms can be downloaded and printed from the above link. Sydney and Bras d'Or Food Handler Courses are being scheduled now and will be announced on the website soon.

### **4-H Dates to Remember**

Cape Breton Co. 4-H Council Meeting - January 5, Sydney

Inverness/ Richmond Jr. Member Workshop - February 1, Port Hawkesbury

Cape Breton/ Victoria Jr. Member Workshop - March - TBA

For more information about the 4-H program, to start a club in your area, or to have us arrange training/workshops, please contact Marina Gillis in Sydney at 902-563-2000 or Rhonda MacDougall in Mabou at 902-945-2901.



## **CHRISTMAS GREETING**

As leaves fall from the trees  
And flurries fill the air,  
We share the excitement and joy  
Of a Christmas season drawing near.  
Gingerbread, holly and candles,  
Singing carols around the tree,  
Boys and girls with endless lists  
As they visit Santa's knee.

Christmas is a time for reflecting  
On what 4-H members and clubs have done,  
A time to say thanks to parents  
For supporting learning, leading, and fun.

Thanks to volunteer leaders  
for sharing time and endless skills,  
Teaching the confidence and responsibility,  
That the 4-H program instills.

4-H ers have learned so much  
With over 40 projects to take,  
They've welded, sanded, weeded,  
Cropped a photo, and decorated a cake.

They have ran many meetings,  
Spoke confidently with their peers,  
Set goals, judged and made friends  
While building skills for future careers.

Leaders and members have learned by doing,  
By pledging head, heart, health and hands,  
Growing communities, and growing selves,  
Always doing the best that they can.

With friends and family we'll gather,  
As another year draws to an end,  
And thinking of those near and afar,  
Merry Christmas wishes we will send.

So Christmas greetings, one and all,  
To supporters, community and friends too,  
The very best of the season  
From the Cape Breton Ag team to you.

### **Season's Greetings from ....**

Rhonda MacDougall, Marina Gillis, Cheryl Chandler, Gary Koziel, Catherine Plumridge, Jeff Hennessey & Terri MacPherson

## **Regional News Central:** East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester and Halifax Counties

The Central Region Extension and Outreach office housing the Agriculture Resource Coordinator, Transition Officer, Business Development Officer, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator and Administrative Support. We are your one stop shop for Department of Agriculture services and information, if you have an agricultural need, question or opportunity you'd like to discuss feel free to contact us.

We have a great group of people working here as a team. The Central Region includes the counties of; Colchester, Cumberland and Halifax East Hants. Our offices are located in Perennia Park, and we may be reached by the contacts below.

Agriculture and Food Advisory Services  
Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture  
90 Research Drive, Suite 112  
Truro NS B6L 2R2

Michael Kittilsen, Agriculture Resource Coordinator, 902-893-3645  
[amichael.kittilsen@novascotia.ca](mailto:amichael.kittilsen@novascotia.ca)

Jacqueline Hoyt, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, 902-893-6586  
[jacquelinehoyt@novascotia.ca](mailto:jacquelinehoyt@novascotia.ca)

Becky Sooksom, Agriculture Transition Officer, 902-896-1288  
[Rebecca.Sooksom@novascotia.ca](mailto:Rebecca.Sooksom@novascotia.ca)

Jillian Garland, Administrative Support, 902-893-6575  
[Jillian.Garland@novascotia.ca](mailto:Jillian.Garland@novascotia.ca)

### **Season's Greetings**

The Department of Agriculture staff in the Central Region would like to extend a Merry Christmas and best wishes for a New Year of happiness. During this holiday season, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have participated in the many challenges and successes of the past year. May the New Year refresh your spirit and bring you renewed inspiration and prosperity. We look forward to working with you in 2016.

*And it wouldn't be Christmas without sharing one of our favorite recipes using local products!*

### **Cranberry Sauce**

12 ounces fresh cranberries  
1/ 2 cup white sugar  
1/ 2 cup brown sugar  
1 cup orange juice  
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon

### **Directions**

In a medium sized saucepan over medium heat, dissolve the sugar in the orange juice and add cinnamon. Stir in the cranberries and cook until the cranberries start to pop (about 10 minutes). Remove from heat and place sauce in a bowl. Cranberry sauce will thicken as it cools. .... Enjoy!!

### **Atlantic Outstanding Young Farmers**

It's never too early to be thinking of nominees for the Atlantic Region Outstanding Young Farmers award. It's a great opportunity to honour the up-and-coming farmers of the agriculture community. Anyone can nominate a young farmer or farm couple, provided the nominee meets three basic requirements: they must be between the ages of 18 and 39, be farm operators and derive a minimum of two-thirds of their income from farming.

For more information or to obtain nomination forms please visit:  
<http://www.oyfatlantic.ca/>

### **Disposal of Used Farm Sharps**

The agriculture office in Bible Hill still has a supply of sharps containers available at no cost for producers. Remember, sharps must not be discarded in regular household garbage but should be collected on farms in rigid, puncture resistant containers with tightly secured lids.

Check with your municipal waste disposal department for instructions on how to dispose of these sharps once they are in a secured container. Drop in to pick up your containers during our regular office hours. For more info contact 902- 893-33645



## Central Region 4-H News

### **Hello 4-H Enthusiasts!**

The 2015 4-H year is coming to an end, and what a fantastic year it was! Thanks to all the volunteer leaders, sponsors and parents who made this year such a success. We couldn't have done it without you! Now that the year is coming to an end, it's time to start thinking about next year! Many clubs have already or will hold registration/info nights in the coming weeks and months. Please contact myself to find out how to join 4-H in your area.

### **Bu\$ine\$\$ Sense 4-H Member Workshop!**

This day long workshop took place November 27 at the Rath Eastlink Community Centre in Truro, and offered information, skills and hands on sessions for future entrepreneurs. Sponsored by the Nova Scotia Dept. of Agriculture, with support from Cultiv8, this session provided fun, learning and skill development in an interactive environment. 40 4-H members from Central Region and Pictou County attended.

### **Nova Scotia 4-H Show 2015**

A big congratulations goes out to all those members who participated at the Nova Scotia 4-H Provincial Show the weekend of October 2-4. The results for Central Region members were fantastic. Cumberland County was 2nd place in overall points and quite a few beef and dairy members traveled to the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto with their heifers.

Members from Central Region who were chosen as part of the Royal Dairy team include: Lane Yuill, Cole Yuill, Taylor Masters, Riley Masters, Lesley Anderson and Albert Ellis. Royal Beef team members include: Alex Goodwin, Patrick Milner, William Cooper, Emily Ross, Jay Woodworth and Michelle Larkin. Congratulations to all the 4-H members that participated in the show.

## 4-H Leader Awards 2015

Many Central Region 4-H leaders received recognition for their years of service at annual awards banquets.

### **The following leaders achieved 5 years of volunteer service:**

Cumberland County:

Mandy Jamieson; Jessica Earle; Cassandra Michaels; April Findlay; Leslie Trenholm

Colchester County:

Heather Prescott; Janice Bush; Rob Bush; Pam Mason; Mark Mason; Crystal Barbrick; Heidi Brownell; Sheila Higgins; Glen Higgins; Crystal LeBlanc; Ken MacLean

Halifax-East Hants:

Connie McDonell; Donnie Benedict; Kevin Morehouse

### **The following leaders achieved 10 years of volunteer service:**

Cumberland County - Vincent Kouwenberg

Colchester County - Jane Blackburn; Lisa Patton

### **The following leaders achieved 15 years of volunteer service:**

Halifax East – Hants - Heather McDonell; Margaret MacDonell

### **The following leader achieved 20 years of volunteer service:**

Cumberland County - Diane Cox

### **The following leader achieved 25 years of volunteer service:**

Cumberland County - Brad Moore

### **The following leader achieved 40 years of volunteer service:**

Cumberland County - Hubert Hunsley

## **Upcoming 4-H Meetings**

### **Colchester County 4-H Council Meetings:**

January 25 and February 22 - 7:00 p.m., Lower Truro Hall.

### **Cumberland County 4-H Council Meetings:**

January 5 and February 2 - 8:00 p.m., Shinimicas Fire Hall.

### **Halifax-East Hants County 4-H Council Meetings:**

January 20 and February 17 - 7:00 p.m., Hants East Rural High School.

## **Mailing Address Changes**

Has your address changed? Has Canada Post requested that you include your civic number in your mailing address? If so, we need to know this information so that we may continue to keep our mailing list up to date.

If you have an address change, please call Jillian at 902-893-6575 or contact her by email at [Jillian.Garland@novascotia.ca](mailto:Jillian.Garland@novascotia.ca) with your changes. Also, if you would rather receive an electronic copy of the newsletter, please e-mail Jillian with your email address

## **Regional News Eastern:** Antigonish, Guysborough and Pictou Counties

### **Rotational Grazing Field Day**

The Eastern region held a rotational grazing field day in partnership with Perennia on November 7 at Addington Farm in Antigonish County. Many producers have been asking lately how they can increase the productivity of their pastures, in part because beef prices have been higher than normal for the past year or so. Jonathan Wort, livestock specialist with Perennia, gave an excellent presentation on the various aspects of rotational grazing.

He talked about setting up paddocks, how to size them, how long to leave animals in them, watering, ways to maximize investments in animals and ensuring the greatest benefit from those investments. A portable, solar powered waterer was also displayed and a short pasture walk concluded the event. A presentation was developed for this event which can be shared. If you would like a copy of the presentation or to speak to someone about the various topics presented that day, please get in touch with the regional NSDA office. Twenty farms were represented.

### **St.F.X. Industry/Research Connector Event**

On November 12 the Eastern region team of the NSDA partnered with St.F.X. University to provide a day where local farmers and agri-businesses pitched ideas and opportunities to faculty and staff of St.F.X. Farmers also had a chance to hear from the faculty and staff about the types of work they do. The goal was creating partnerships with academics and industry so farmers and agri-businesses could help overcome challenges in their businesses. The day was a great success with over 50 people attending. There were seven pitches from farmers and a few more farmers and funding partners in attendance.

The challenges presented by farmers included nutrition, packaging, processing and preserving. This event builds on several successful projects that have been completed in the past where farmers have received significant amounts of research from St.F.X. faculty at no cost. Plans are in the works to host another event so if you have ideas/problems/challenges or opportunities you think could benefit from academic research or would be suitable as a student project please get in touch with us.

### **Reminder: Growing Forward II – Home Grown Success**

March 1st is the deadline for claims to be submitted Return completed forms and supporting documents to the local agriculture office or N.S. Department of Agriculture, Programs and Business Risk Management Division, 60 Research Drive, Suite A, Bible Hill, NS B6L 2R2 Website: <http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/financial-funding/> Questions? Call 902-893-6510 or 1-866-844-4276 (4PRM), Fax: 902- 893-7579 Email: [prm@gov.ns](mailto:prm@gov.ns)

## **Eastern Region 4-H News**

### **Paq'tnkek First Nation 4-H Pilot Program**

This fall the Paq'tnkek First Nation, located in Afton, Antigonish County, are participating in a 4-H pilot program. The program was organized by the Paq'tnkek community youth worker, The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq in Truro and the Agriculture Leadership Coordinator for the Eastern Region. The program held a registration day in October with 25 eager young people between the ages of 8 and 16 showing an interest.

This pilot program will see youth participate in a 4-H "exploring" program. The members will meet once a week for six weeks, completing a small project each week. Some planned projects include gardening, crafts, great outdoors, heritage and a dairy farm tour. The members will display their finished project, photos and reports at an Achievement Day at the end of their program. The community will be invited to see the members' work at the end of the program. This will also be when members receive their certificates.

We are hoping that the pilot will be a successful introduction to the 4-H program and perhaps can be replicated again either at Paq'tnkek or in other First Nation communities.

## **Training Opportunities**

If you require a food safety course for yourself or a group you work with, please check.

<http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/food-protection/food-hygiene-course/scheduled-courses/northeast/> or contact Sam Robichaud. Phone 902-485-7162 or [samantha.robichaud@novascotia.ca](mailto:samantha.robichaud@novascotia.ca)

If you require training updates in the areas of First Aid, Pesticide Certification or Recertification or would to see financial training please call Laureen at 902-863-4705 or [Laureen.Boyd@novascotia.ca](mailto:Laureen.Boyd@novascotia.ca)

***Merry Christmas! – from Adam, Laureen, Dawn, Terri, Sam & Connie***

## **Take time this Christmas to use local products**

### **Honey Poppy Seed Dressing**

Ingredients:

3/4 cup mayonnaise (175 ml)  
1/3 cup local honey (75 ml)  
2 1/2 Tbsp poppy seeds (37 ml)  
1 Tbsp Dijon mustard (15 ml)  
Salt and pepper to taste

Method:

Mix all ingredients well.  
Store in refrigerator for up to 48 hours.



For more Christmas recipe ideas visit [www.selectnovascotia.ca](http://www.selectnovascotia.ca)

## **Regional News Valley:** West Hants, Kings, Lunenburg and Queens Counties

During this season of giving, let us take time to slow down and enjoy the simple things. May this wonderful time of year touch your heart in a special way.

The Department of Agriculture staff at the Kentville Agricultural Centre would like to wish you much happiness today and throughout the New Year. We look forward to working with you in 2016.

### **Hants County Federation of Agriculture**

The Hants County Federation of Agriculture held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, October 28. About 25 members and guests attended. Victor Oulton provided an overview of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture's (NSFA) activities during the past year.

One NSFA member questioned its commitment to small scale farmers, in particular those involved in direct marketing, and suggested that the National Farmers Union was doing a much better job addressing their concerns. NSFA Executive Director, Henry Vissers, responded that having strong county federations was one way in which smaller operators could make their voices heard within the NSFA.

**Food Safety Outreach** Coordinator Rick Kane, from the Environmental Health and Food Safety Division of Nova Scotia Environment gave a presentation on current food safety issues against the backdrop of the Safe Food for Canadians Act. He suggested very little change would be felt at the farm level, but that processors of any scale would notice an increasing number of audits by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Labeling of processed products would also receive more scrutiny, especially those containing already processed ingredients such as soy sauce or lime juice, because they may contain allergens. There appeared to be consensus at the meeting that the enforcement of food safety regulations needs to be applied consistently at both provincial and federal levels.

### **Think Local This Holiday Season**

Choose local, in-season, organic and fair-trade certified foods more often. Try to buy directly from the growers. Cutting out the middle-person means that more of your food dollar goes to the people who grow your food. Farmers' markets are a good place to start. Ask your favorite grocery stores, restaurants and caterers to offer more local and seasonal options.

### **Food Safety Courses**

Food Safety Courses are held from September to June each year. Visit our website for a full list of course dates/times and also info on how to register for on-line courses - <http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/food-protection/food-hygiene-course/>.

For more information, contact the Food Safety Office at 1-877-285-5167.

### **E-Mail Addresses**

In an effort to improve communication with clients, we are collecting e-mail addresses. If you would like to occasionally receive remainders, notices, or this newsletter via e-mail, please provide your e-mail address to Cheryl Theriau at [Cheryl.Theriau@novascotia.ca](mailto:Cheryl.Theriau@novascotia.ca).

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list or if your address is incorrect, please email Cheryl or call 902-679-6021.

### **Coming Events**

- Atlantic Mink Production Course  
January 5-7, Dal AC.
- Dairy Farmers of NS AGM -  
January 5-7, Best Western  
Glengarry, Truro
- Scotia Horticultural Congress -  
January 25-26 - Old Orchard Inn,  
Greenwich
- NSFCA Annual Convention -  
January 26-27 - Old Orchard Inn,  
Greenwich

### **Valley/ South Shore 4-H News**

Plant a Seed and Grow With Our 4-H Team!

For more information on 4-H in the South Shore contact Colin Hirtle, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, at 902-634-7575 or email [Colin.Hirtle@novascotia.ca](mailto:Colin.Hirtle@novascotia.ca).

For the Valley 4-H program, contact the Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, at 902-679-6027.



**CANADA**  
4-H Nova Scotia

## **South Shore 4-H News 2015-2016 4-H Clubs**

### **Lunenburg County**

Hill 'n' Dale 4-H Club  
Branch LaHave 4-H Club  
Livewires 4-H Club  
Two Bays 4-H Club  
Handy Hands 4-H Club  
Lapland 4-H Club  
BBHH 4-H Club

### **Queens County**

4-Leaf Clover 4-H Club

### **Shelburne County**

Roseway River 4-H Club  
Sou'West 4-H Club

### **New Club**

Welcome to a new 4-H Club in the Barrington Area.

The Sou' West 4-H Club is accepting new members for the 2015-2016 year. We are looking forward to working with this club and seeing how it develops and becomes a part of 4-H in Shelburne County.

The Sou' West 4-H Clubs is based out of the Barrington Lions Hall and will be holding general meetings at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month.

### **Upcoming 4-H Leaders Council Meetings**

**Lunenburg County** - January 5,  
7:30 p.m., Wileville Fire Hall

**Shelburne County** - January 4,  
6:30 p.m., TBD

**Queens County** - January 6, 6:30  
p.m., Westfield Hall.

### **Valley 4-H News**

One of the keys to the success of the 4-H program is leaders and without these dedicated volunteers we would not have the highly successful

program we have here in Nova Scotia! So a big thank you goes to the volunteer leaders and to the many supportive parents that enable members to accomplish much within the 4-H Program.

## **Valley 2015 - 2016 4-H Clubs**

### **Hants County**

Avon 4-H Club  
Border Riders 4-H Club  
Burlington Workers 4-H Club  
Cobequid 4-H Club  
Newport 4-H Club  
Rawdon 2-Way 4-H Club

### **Kings County**

Central Valley 4-H Club  
Cornwallis 4-H Club  
Eastern Kings 4-H Club  
Harmony Nicholsville 4-H Club  
Horton 4-H Club  
Western Kings 4-H Club

## **Kings County Awards Banquet**

The Kings County Awards Banquet was held on October 24. Special Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Sharon Spicer and Connie Weinberg, long time 4-H Leaders within the county, and to AVR/Magic 97.7 for their ongoing support of 4-H within the county.

## **The 2015 Nova Scotia 4-H Show - A Huge Volunteer Success!**

The show would not have been possible without countless volunteers! Thank you for all your support.

## **New 4-H Leader Information Sessions**

New Leader Information Sessions will be held early winter. South Shore leaders will be notified in the New Year. All new leaders are required to attend OR complete the online Knowledge Test.

### **Kings County New 4-H Leader Information Session –**

Wednesday, January 6, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Kentville Agricultural Centre.

### **Hants County New 4-H Leader Information Session –**

Monday, January 11, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., Brooklyn Middle School. New 4-H leaders are welcome to attend the Hants Council Meeting which will follow at 7:00 p.m.

## **Upcoming Council Meetings**

Kings County 4-H Nominating Committee Meeting - Monday, December 7, Scotian Gold, Coldbrook

Hants County 4-H Council Meetings - Monday, December 14 and January 11, Hants West Middle School, Brooklyn

Kings County 4-H Council Meeting - Monday, January 4, Scotian Gold

## **Regional News** Western: Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth and Shelburne Counties

### **Season Greetings / Joyeuses Fêtes**

From all of us at the Western Regional Office, we wish you and your family a wonderful and joyous holiday season filled with the warmth of loved ones and friends. May the New Year bring you peace, happiness and good health.

#### **Mailing Address Changes**

Has your address changed? Has Canada Post requested that you include your civic number in your mailing address? If so, we need to know this information so that we may continue to keep our mailing list up to date. If you have an address change, please call Gina Chapelhow at 902-638-2395 or contact her by email at [Gina.Chapelhow@novascotia.ca](mailto:Gina.Chapelhow@novascotia.ca) with your changes. Also, if you would rather receive an electronic copy of the newsletter, please e-mail Gina with your request.



### **Western Region 4-H News**

#### **Dates to Remember**

- All 4-H registration forms for the 2015-2016 4-H year should have been at the 4-H office by December 1, 173 Haida St, Cornwallis Park B0S 1H0. B0S 1H0. Any new inquiries please call 902-638-2387 or e-mail [jean.ward@novascotia.ca](mailto:jean.ward@novascotia.ca) for information.
- Annapolis County 4-H Leaders Council meetings - January 13 and February 10, 7:00 p.m. at the Community Services Boardroom Middleton.
- Yarmouth County 4-H Leaders Council meetings - January 20 and February 17, 7:00 p.m., 4-H office, Lovett Street
- Digby County 4-H leaders Council meetings - January 21 and February 18, 7:00 p.m., Digby Library



***Plant a Seed and Grow With Our 4-H Team!***

#### **Fur Industry Regulations**

The deadline is closing in fast for compliance with the Fur Industry Regulations on January 11, 2016. If you have any questions regarding the regulations or would like to discuss where you are in the process, please contact us at 902-638-2396 or email [Terry.McKay@novascotia.ca](mailto:Terry.McKay@novascotia.ca)

#### **Need a Sharp Container?**

Livestock producers generate medical waste on a regular basis. This includes sharps such as syringes, needles, broken glass tubes, lancets and scalpel blades. If not disposed of properly they can injure livestock and family members; increase risk of spreading infection; pollute the environment; and put waste handlers at risk. Sharps must not be discarded in regular household garbage. Sharp containers have been specifically designed for disposing of sharps. When the container is full of sharps, the contents should still be considered potentially infectious to humans and animals, but the risk is low. For disposal in any municipality, you must first check with your local disposal site to see what they have in place to accept sharps.



Containers are available from the Department of Agriculture office in Cornwallis Park.

Call 902-638-2395 for hours and information